Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Monday 13 Mar 2023 until 23:59 on Tuesday 14 Mar 2023

Forecast Issued on Sunday 12 Mar 2023 at 16:55

Confidence: High for an unsettled week with heavy precipitation at times and turning colder later Monday, but lower for details due to uncertainties regarding track and depth of various lows over or close to the UK and timing of the associated fronts.

Headline for Monday 13 Mar 2023: Wet and windy, then colder with snow in evening.

Mountain weather hazards on Monday 13 Mar 2023

Blizzards
Low Likelihood

Gales
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
Low Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Medium Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
High Likelihood

Storm force winds
Low Likelihood

Poor visibility
High Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m

Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Light rain	Heavy Rain	Light rain	Light rain	Heavy snow	Heavy snow
Precipitation probability							
>95%	>95%	60%	90%	80%	90%	>95%	>95%

Forecast for Monday 13 Mar 2023

Weather: Cloudy with widespread hill fog and generally persistent, often heavy rain through much of the day, conditions underfoot likely to become very wet with fast running water courses. During the late afternoon and evening, as winds turn more northerly, the rain will turn increasingly to occasionally heavy snow, initially on the fell tops but eventually to at all levels, with blizzard conditions developing at height.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Around 10% in east, otherwise zero

Low cloud and visibility: Persistent cloud above 450-600m, lowering to 300m at times especially for coastal ranges, perhaps becoming periods above 600-750m at times in east. Away from cloud visibility generally several kilometres in rain falling a kilometre or less in heavy snow and near zero in blizzards.

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Met Office Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Monday 13 Mar 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	38/47 S	50/63 SW	52/67 SW	47/61 SW	46/59 SW	33/42 W	27/36 NW	38/52 N	36/51 N
600	29/41 S	33/48 SW	39/55 SW	35/50 SW	33/47 SW	24/34 W	18/27 NW	27/42 N	26/42 N
300	11/29 S	13/36 SW	16/41 SW	16/38 SW	15/37 SW	11/28 W	10/23 NW	14/34 N	15/36 N
Valley	10/26 S	15/36 SW	17/40 SW	18/39 SW	16/36 SW	14/29 W	14/28 NW	18/37 N	17/35 N

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	5/-2	5/-2	4/-4	4/-4	4/-4	3/-4	-0/-7	-4/-14	-6/-17
600	6/0	7/1	6/-1	5/-1	6/-1	5/-1	2/-4	-2/-10	-4/-13
300	7/4	8/5	7/3	7/3	7/3	6/3	4/0	0/-5	-2/-8
Valley	8/6	9/6	8/5	8/4	8/5	8/4	5/1	3/-3	1/-5
Freezing Level*	2400m	2300m	1700m	1600m	1600m	1500m	900m	300m	100m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Gusts close to 75mph over ridges and summits around dawn then slowly easing. Generally a pretty miserable day with widespread difficult conditions, which deteriorate further in evening.

Forecast for Tuesday 14 Mar 2023

Weather: Occasionally heavy snow with blizzard conditions clearing southeastwards soon after midnight with skies then clearing. Then a bitterly cold day with a mix of sunny spells and occasionally heavy snow showers, these most frequent over western fells. The showers largely dying out through the evening. Lying snow likely to drift in the strong winds.

Maximum wind: Northerly 30-40mph, gusts around 60mph over ridges and summits, backing more westerly or northwesterly through the morning and slowly easing to around 20mph by evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Around 40% in west, but nearer 75% in east.

Low cloud and visibility: Occasional, or especially in west, periods of cloud above about 600-750m, lowering to 450m at times in showers. Away from cloud visibility, very good falling to a kilometre or less in heavy snow showers and drifting snow.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Around zero Celsius at dawn and again in evening, rising to plus 4 Celsius by day
At 800m: Around minus 4 or 5 Celsius
Freezing level: 300m or less

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Sunday 12 March. Location: Helvellyn summit at 14:00. Full report: The Lake District fells are in the grip of a general thaw at all levels. The freezing level rose rapidly above the summits overnight and all the remaining snow and ice is wet and thawing. Where it has drifted snow is still lying down to valley level but overall there was a significant reduction in snow cover throughout the day. The snow cover is still very varied with many S aspects stripped back to summit level by the sunshine of the last few days. Elsewhere the soft and wet snow drifts are still thigh deep in places which made for slow progress. Where the snow has been compressed under walkers feet on popular routes it is now becoming icy and slippery. Extensive rime ice had also formed above 900m yesterday evening before the things started warming up. Crampons or microspikes were essential to deal with the variety of conditions encountered on Striding & Swirral Edges today. Looking forward, any small drop in temperature will quickly transform and refreeze the remaining snow and ice giving serious conditions on which an ice axe and crampons and the skills to use them will be essential. The thaw is forecast to last for another 24 hours before a welcome return to colder conditions. Full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch, map and compass are all essential to safely, and enjoyably, enjoy the fells. Temperature: plus 2.1C. Maximum wind speed 29.5mph. Wind chill: minus 6.4C. Average wind speed: 23.9mph.

Issued at: 1655 on Sun 12 Mar 2023

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